



respond



re-knit



re-think

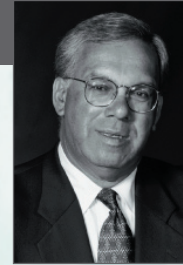
Mayor Thomas M. Menino
City of Boston
Fall 2005



CROSSROADS INITIATIVE



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To the Citizens and Visitors of Boston:

The Crossroads Initiative is the City of Boston's flagship response to the enormous opportunities and challenges at hand with completion of the Central Artery Tunnel project. The outline of the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway is beginning to take shape. New parks and development along this now bare stretch of land will change not just the city skyline but also how we find our way around the streets of Downtown. What's more, it's time to take a fresh look at these streets and their potential in the coming century to better serve the needs of residents and visitors alike.

The Crossroads Initiative strives to fulfill the vision of the Central Artery Tunnel project to reknit neighborhoods and help the city to make the most of the opportunities before us. Focusing on renovating and enlivening twelve streets in downtown Boston, the Crossroads Initiative will reconnect neighborhoods long divided by the elevated freeway, as well as establish new ties and relationships among Downtown's vibrant districts: the North End and the Bulfinch Triangle, the Financial District and South Boston, Chinatown and the Fort Point Channel. The Crossroads streets will also weave into Downtown's fabric the amenities of both its newest great resource – the Greenway – and its oldest – the Harbor.

I am excited to introduce the Crossroads Initiative to the City of Boston. This pamphlet provides an overview of the project and highlights our vision for the first three streets to be transformed: Broad Street, Summer Street, and Causeway Street.

We hope that this brief introduction leads you to learn more and to become involved in the process. Widespread community participation – with city agencies, developers, businesses, and citizens – is vital to realizing our vision for 21st Century Boston.

I look forward to working with you as we move this exciting project forward. Together, we will make Boston a better place to live, work, and visit.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston

RESPOND

In early 2004, Mayor Thomas M. Menino launched the Crossroads Initiative, a comprehensive planning program that leverages the massive infrastructure investment of the Central Artery/Tunnel Project to shape and define downtown Boston following the Big Dig. The ultimate goal of Crossroads is to re-knit the fabric of Boston, reconnecting neighborhoods to the Harbor and to each other with the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway as the centerpiece.

Over the past year, the Boston Redevelopment Authority, working with various City departments and outside consultants, has explored the opportunities and challenges of this endeavor. The City of Boston is now prepared to move forward with a coordinated implementation of the Crossroads Initiative beginning in 2005.

The Crossroads Initiative focuses on six miles of key streets that connect neighborhoods and destinations along the Greenway. Twelve streets have been identified that, with the creation of the Greenway, have the potential to form these vital connections between residential and business districts long separated by the elevated Central Artery. The initiative also aims to establish modern, functional and attractive connections to and from Boston Harbor, the Greenway, and downtown neighborhoods.

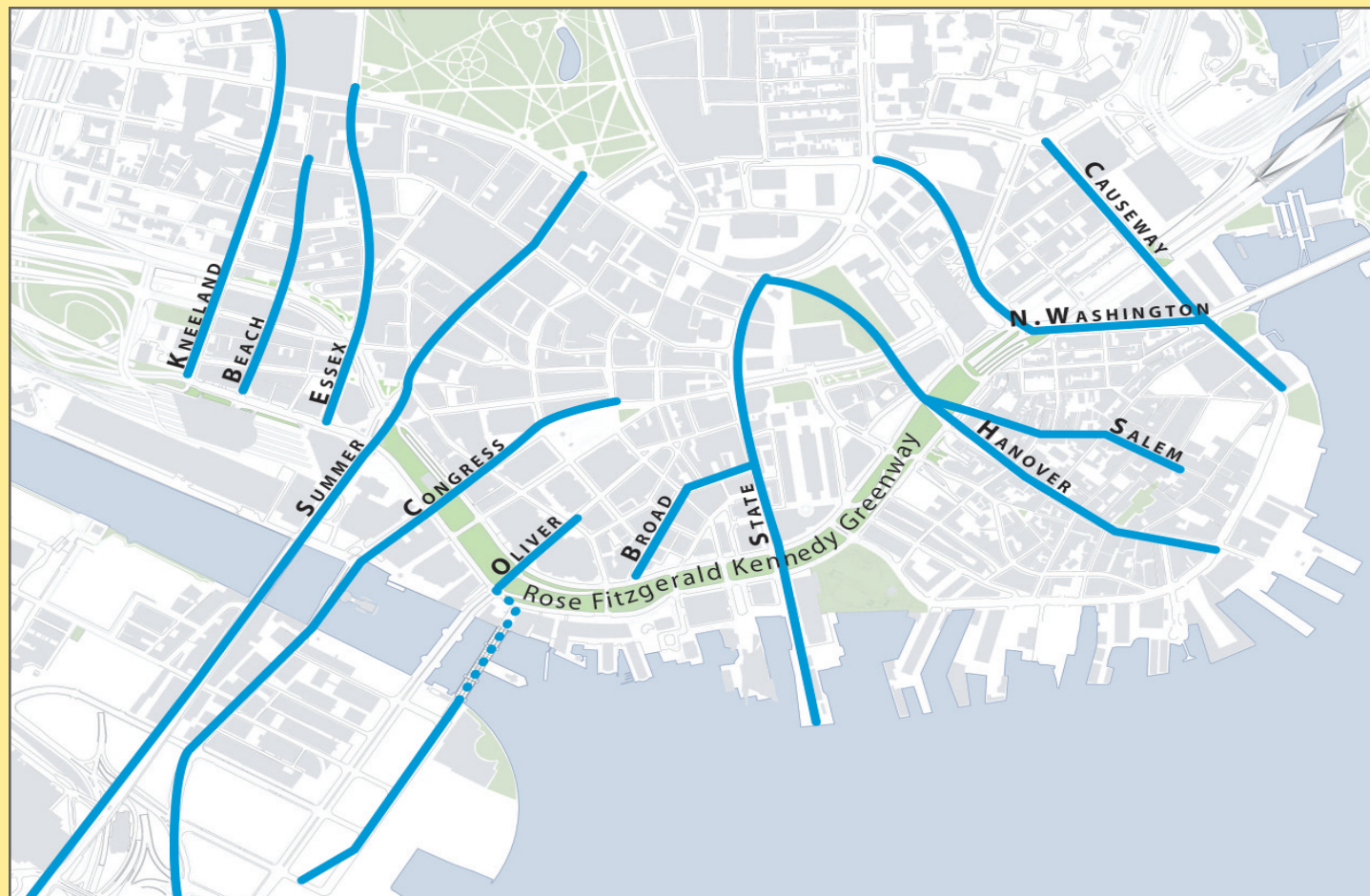
Crossroads are intended to be Great Streets – streets of exceptional quality and vitality, with 21st Century amenities that will strengthen Boston as a world-class city. Construction of the Crossroads will mean improved pedestrian environments, enhanced elements for wayfinding, increased activity along

sidewalks, better traffic flow, and new opportunities for art and performance. The goal is to create a convenient, comfortable, information- and activity-rich environment that attracts and supports Boston residents, businesses and visitors. It will facilitate their travel – largely as pedestrians – and will promote their enjoyment of and appreciation for our downtown’s many wonderful neighborhoods and abundance of historic, cultural and retail destinations.

Implementation of the Crossroads Initiative will take place over a period of 7 – 10 years; will be managed jointly by the BRA and the City of Boston Public Works Department; and will be funded through public-private partnerships. Each street will require independent design contracts and construction schedules to ensure the most cost-effective and achievable plans, while

also protecting and maintaining accessibility to each and every destination within the Crossroads and Greenway District during the process. The first design contracts are expected to be released in late 2005 and construction on the first Crossroads – Causeway, Broad, and Summer Streets – is set to begin in 2006.

For more information and for updates on the planning, design, and construction of the Crossroads, please visit www.bostoncrossroads.com.



The twelve Crossroads.



The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway will create a green spine through downtown Boston.



Crossroads will form ribs along the spine of the Greenway, connecting downtown neighborhoods to the Greenway and the harbor beyond.



An early concept diagram identifying the need to reconnect the “multiple solitudes” of downtown’s neighborhoods.

Causeway Street

“...a great **pedestrian-oriented boulevard**.”

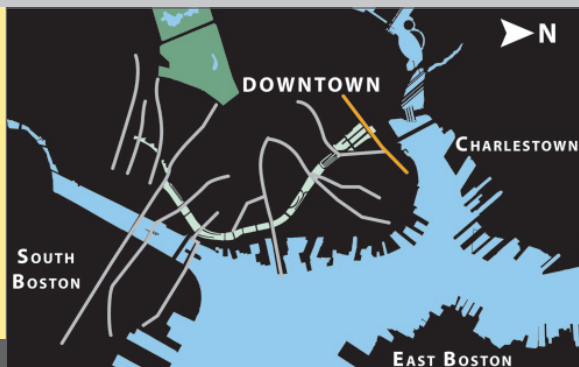


Existing conditions: looking west on Causeway Street from Canal Street

Causeway Street transforms into a great pedestrian-oriented boulevard. It lives up to its Bulfinch Triangle heritage and it becomes the anchor for this business and entertainment district linking two of Boston’s great neighborhoods – the West End and North End.

No longer in the shadow of the Green Line viaduct, Causeway Street is reborn as the heart of the Bulfinch Triangle. This lively district is host to a sidewalk café atmosphere on its tree-lined sidewalks.

North Station commuters and the patrons to the TD Banknorth Garden have access to convenient and comprehensive information about local destinations and are welcomed to enjoy the Crossroads’ new amenities throughout the day and night – from the dramatic views of the Zakim Bunker Hill Bridge from Portal Park, to Lovejoy Wharf and the new parks system along the Charles River Basin.



- Widened Sidewalks
- Street performers
- New information kiosks with Crossroads Maps
- New street trees and plantings
- Special paving for crosswalks and key intersections
- New, planted medians that accommodate art installations
- New street lighting and feature lighting
- Grand public entrance to North Station
- Sidewalk cafes

Broad Street

“...an **active contemporary place**...”



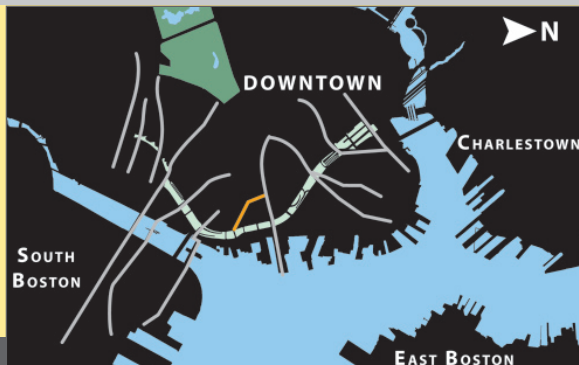
Existing conditions: looking toward the harbor at Broad and Milk Streets

Broad Street becomes an active contemporary place at the center of the historic financial district and strengthens the connections between State Street and harborside destinations.

The bend in Broad Street traces the boundaries of colonial Boston’s Town Cove leading to State Street, the historic corridor connecting Long Wharf, the Customs House and the Old State House.

This important Crossroads’ widened tree-lined sidewalks connect well-traveled State Street, Faneuil Hall Marketplace and Government Center to the new Rose Kennedy Greenway at the harbor’s edge.

A Broad Street traveler arrives in the heart of the Greenway – at the Wharf District Parks – on the way to water transportation beyond the dramatic Rowes Wharf arch.



- Special paving and crosswalks at a major intersection
- Widened sidewalks on both sides
- New street furniture
- Pedestrian-friendly bulb-outs at key intersections
- New street trees and plantings
- New street lighting

Summer Street

“...makes the trip **friendly and inviting...**”

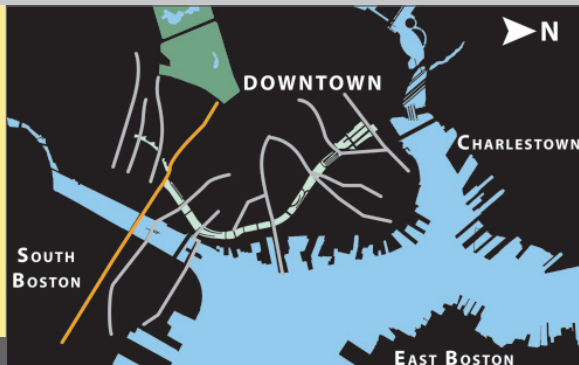


Existing conditions: looking south on Summer Street towards the BCEC

The Summer Street Crossroads makes the trip from Boston Common to Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) friendly and inviting for people arriving by transit, on foot or by bicycle.

Summer Street links the newly developing South Boston Waterfront with downtown. In one short mile, this broad promenade’s widened and enlivened sidewalks will connect visitors to both Boston Common and the Rose Kennedy Greenway while also connecting Downtown Crossing shoppers to the Financial District and South Station, and historic Boston to the emerging Fort Point Channel District neighborhood and the BCEC.

Shady tree-lined sidewalks, delightful stopping points, good signage, cheerful lighting and up-to-date information about nearby destinations will invite residents, visitors and shoppers to explore and enjoy this Crossroads connection.



- Sidewalk cafes
- Sidewalks re-graded and widened on both sides
- New street trees and plantings
- Planted median across bridge
- Spaces added for public art
- New street lighting
- Bike lanes

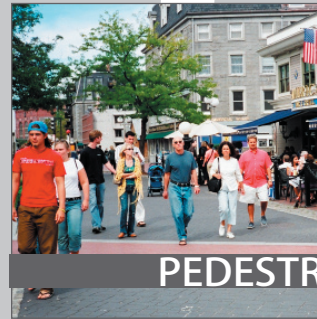
RE-THINK

What makes a "Great Street"?

Streets are a complex assembly of spaces and elements that include the *buildings on either side, possibly open space, sidewalks, roadway surfaces for travel and parking, street furniture, and signage*. These features define a space that allows a wide variety of activities and movement taking place both indoors and outside.

The Crossroads Initiative is an opportunity not only to improve these streets, but to rethink the potential and function of streets in the 21st Century.

The following 11 principles describe what the 21st Century street should achieve.



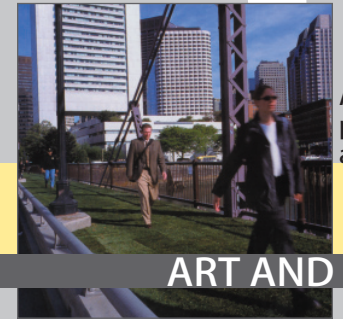
Comfort and safety while facilitating other modes of travel

PEDESTRIAN COMFORT



Street as marketplace, promenade, performance space, formal venue

FLEXIBLE



Art for public purposes, and art for art's sake

ART AND ACTIVITY



Equal quality and accessibility to all people

INVITING TO EVERYONE



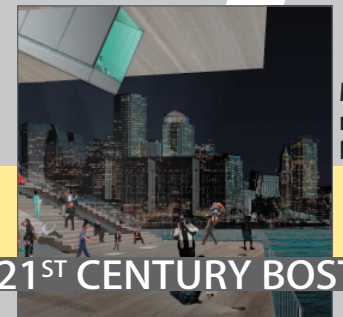
Visual cues that help navigate, identify, and educate

UNDERSTANDABLE



"Longevity, equity and participation"; minimize waste, create efficiency

LONG-TERM & SUSTAINABLE



Modern, yet recognizably Bostonian

21ST CENTURY BOSTON IMAGE



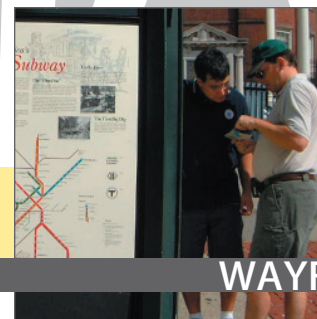
Technology enhances navigation, information, safety, comfort, and maintenance

UTILIZES TECHNOLOGY



Relationships between stakeholders to sustain programming and maintenance

PARTNERSHIP



Help people understand where they are, what's around them, and how to access it

WAYFINDING



Draws activity onto the sidewalk and into buildings

SEAMLESS

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Acknowledgements

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